

**ABSTRACT**

5       The invention provides a sustained release composition  
free of food effect comprising:

- (a) a core comprising verapamil; and
- (b) a functional coating comprising, based on the  
weight of the coating, from 30 to 80% of a  
10       gastroresistant polymer and from 10 to 40% of a  
hydrophilic silicon dioxide.

The invention also provides a method for alleviating  
food effect in a verapamil pharmaceutical composition.